

THE HICKMAN COURIER.

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CURRENT TOPICS.

The oldest observatory in the world is in China.

The Pacific coast trade with Russia is increasing.

Russia holds third place among the gold producing countries.

It has been demonstrated that African elephants can be domesticated.

Out of 226,000 farms in Denmark only 1,900 are more than 250 acres in extent.

Exports of Lincolnshire have decided to erect a statue of Lord Tennyson in Lincoln.

The war with Spain has furnished employment to every pattern maker in the United States.

The death rate of the sailors in the mercantile marine is 12 per 1,000 lower than on land.

A big battle ship has on board an electric plant capable of lighting a town of 5,000 inhabitants.

In 1897 the millioinaires of the United States gave more than \$32,000,000 to charitable and benevolent societies.

LORD ROBERTS declares that the shooting standard attained by the Indian troops is unequalled by any troops in the world.

A Spanish inventor produces from grasshoppers a fatty substance which is declared to make the finest soap yet manufactured.

INDIAN wrestlers and athletes train on a diet consisting chiefly of milk, with a little goat's flesh and plenty of farinaceous food.

HENRIETTA SPILLING LASH, of Chelsea, Mass., who is 90 years of age, that she remembers seeing Paul Revere in his fine old mansion.

In Germany and Holland girls are chosen in preference to young men in occupations where they can be advantageously employed.

A COURT official says that the prince of Wales' voice is so like the Emperor William that the one can scarcely be distinguished from the other.

PRINCE ALBERT of Belgium, on his recent visit to San Francisco, escaped an interview by claiming to be only the prince's private secretary.

In Sweden the railway stations where meals are served are known by the picture of a crossed knife and fork opposite the name of the station.

GRAPES from bicycle accidents is prevented by a new riding machine which is designed to be attached to the body and inclined to any desired hardness.

KITE FLYING has been popular in Japan for many centuries; the kites being of the most elaborate figures, generally of aged gentlemen, birds or puppy dogs.

CAFE MAHAR's recent visit to this country by the Navy department will probably result in his being accepted the invitation of the German emperor to visit him in Berlin.

THE property owned by college fraternities at Cornell is valued at \$475,000. Williams \$500,000. Yale \$300,000. Amherst \$200,000. Wesleyan \$150,000. Harvard \$125,000.

THE American soil felt that all the rage in the leading Australian colonies. The rabbit pest in those colonies may yet become a source of wealth, as the skin is of value for felt making.

The California, the pampered pet of the nation, is in this latitude and thrives in some parts of California, the fields and meadows as generously as the thistle or the wild mustard.

The whole Moslem race despise and hate the sound of bells, which they say cause the evil spirits to assemble together. In consequence, they are never used on Mohammedan mosques.

A NEW lamp burner has an asbestos tip set in a slot at the top of the burner with a felt filling piece interposed between the tip and the wick below, thus forming an indestructible wick.

The German squadron on the China station will next summer be composed of the Kaiser and Deutschland, and three cruisers, two third and one fourth class, carrying a total of 3,354 men.

The hull of a new English ship built with two more warlike channels on the sides of the boat to receive auxiliary propellers driven by separate engines, in addition to the usual stern screw.

NEW YORK is to lose her Bradley Martins. The home establishment is to be sold at auction and the family agent says he presumes Mr. and Mrs. Martin have "finally abandoned America."

The Swiss canton of Neuchâtel has sanctioned a plan for a universal life insurance in which all the natives over 18 years old may participate. In case of death the heirs receive from 1,000 to 5,000 francs to be paid to the heirs.

The greatest cigar smoking contest on record was decided on a Thames river boat when a waterman, a turreman on a water consumed 50 strong cigars in 95 hours. The only refreshment taken by the winner was a chop and a small quantity of brandy and water.

A PENNSYLVANIA woman has designed a handy veil holder, which consists of a light lace veil to be attached to the face by a spring clip, which opens in opposite directions and grip the end of the veil as it is drawn tight across the face.

A REPTILIAN indicates a fine day to reflect more red or heat-making rays, and as dry air is not perfectly transparent they are again reflected upon the horizon. A copy or yellow sunset generally foretells a holiday.

The young queen of Holland has a complete distaste for music of all kinds. Her father, the late King William III., was so fond of music that he said, when prince of Orange, to have disguised himself in order to play second violin in Malibran's orchestra.

SEVERAL of the rapidity of thought, an English scientist says that if the skin be touched repeatedly with light blows from a small hammer, the brain will distinguish the fact that the blows are separate and not a continuous pressure, even when they follow one another as rapidly as 1,000 in a second.

In the West Indies a lemon bath is almost a daily luxury. Three or four times a lemon is squeezed in the water and allowed to lie for half an hour, in order that the juice may be extracted. A remarkable sense of freshness and cleanliness is given to the skin.

APPROXIMATE of the new spider silk, a Philadelphia manufacturer has discovered in an old book on color, dated 1814, an account of an attempt to promote spider silk culture, which failed because the spiders, when brought to the point of the death due to the lack of proper food.

A PIERCE COMBAT.

Marblehead, Nashville and Windom Engage Forts and Ships at Cienfuegos.

A Handful of Men Fought Against Four Hundred and Were Victorious in the Battle of Cienfuegos.

KEY WEST, Fla., May 16.—Off the coast of Cienfuegos the cruisers Marblehead, Nashville and Windom fought a desperate battle against four hundred men.

Wednesday. They were victorious and now the southern Cuban seaport is sitting in ruin and the dead and dying fill its streets.

It was determined some time ago to cut the Spanish cable out of Cienfuegos and thus prevent movements of American ships, on that side being made known to Madrid. The task was assigned to the three cruisers. They drew in close to shore.

They made out a new fortification at the entrance to Cienfuegos bay, and the Windom, under Capt. McGuire, the Nashville, under Capt. McNeill, the fourth opened fire. The Windom repelled with his big forward rifle, in a few minutes left the fortification a mass of ruins.

Under cover of the cannonade the Nashville and Marblehead launched their boats and pulled into the bay. The cable was cut by the Windom, the Nashville and the Windom repelled with his big forward rifle, in a few minutes left the fortification a mass of ruins.

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ENSIGN BAGLEY.

A Noble Tribute Paid to the Memory of the First Officer Killed in the War With Spain.

RALEIGH, N. C., May 17.—The United States and North Carolina Monday paid noble tribute to the memory of the gallant ensign, Worth Bagley, the first officer killed in the war with Spain.

Nothing to approach Monday's pageant was ever seen here. The body arrived late Sunday night, was met by an escort of the First regiment of volunteers and taken to the home of Ensign Bagley's widow.

Under the shelter of the troops kept constant guard. The love of all classes of people for the dead was shown in the funeral tributes. The latter came from near and far and it was significant that most of them were red, white and blue.

On the ensign's death the dead officer's children and widow. Among the floral offerings, which literally blanketed the casket and filled all available space in the funeral home, were palms sent by Gen. Breckinridge, in memory of his son, the late Cabell Breckinridge, young Bagley's classmate.

After appropriate funeral services the remains were interred in Oakland cemetery.

MUSTERED IN.

Eighty-Three Thousand Volunteers Are Now Ready for Active Service—Troops in Camp or En Route.

WASHINGTON, May 17.—Reports received by Adj. Gen. Corbin up to 10 o'clock Monday night indicate that 81,000 volunteers have been mustered in since the first of March.

The First and Third Pennsylvania, Ohio and Wisconsin among the number have mustered in their entire quota of troops and many of them have already arrived at or are en route to the front.

The troops going to Manila are to be mustered in for six months, the troops going to the Philippines for three months, and the troops going to the Philippines for three months.

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NEWS CURTAILED.

Navy Department Places a Censorship on Information of Our Vessel's Movements—Proper News to Be Reluctant.

WASHINGTON, May 17.—An order posted Monday morning and signed by Secretary Long relative to the publication of news emanating from the navy department had the effect Monday of curtailing the supply of information that heretofore has been rather freely given out.

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